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Housekeepers! Chat

Wednesday, July 9, 1930.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "Ensembles for Sunny Days." Program, including menu and recipe, from Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. D. A.

Leaflet available: "Ensembles for Sunny Days," Leaflet Number 63.

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Now it can be told. The secret is out, and before long hundreds of copies of Leaflet Number 63 will be speeding over the country -- north, south, east, and west.

Leaflet Number 63 is the very latest and newest of the leaflets — and to my way of thinking, one of the most appealing. Only four pages to this leaflet, but in these four pages are more pretty clothes for children than you can shake a stick at. "Ensembles for Sunny Days" is the title, Miss Scott of the Bureau of Home Economics is the author, and real children of Washington, D. C., posed for the pictures.

Take this first page; the little girl in the picture is dressed in the approved style for play in the back yard. When days are hot, and children need few clothes, ysun-suit ensemble is ideal. This little girl, Peggy Ann, is dressed in a cool romper, with a net top to catch the ultraviolet rays of the sunshine. I wish you could see this romper. It has a front opening, so convenient that Peggy Ann can dress herself. When she grows taller, the tabs on the shoulders can be slipped back, and tacked in place again. A sun-suit romper, all in one piece, with all the latest modern conveniences.

Now just supposing that Aunt Lucretia comes to call, and wants to take Peggy Ann on a shopping tour. Will she be called indoors, to shed her romper, and dress up in a stiff and starchy visiting dress? No siree! Not in these enlightened days. Peggy Ann has a dress to match the romper, a simply tailored dress with a front closing, which Peggy Ann puts on by herself, and fastens in a jiffy. See the three big buttons, on the front closing? Even Peggy Ann's chubby fingers can handle the nice big buttons.

In my mind's eye, I can see Peggy Ann, skipping down the street, with Aunt Lucretia.

Over here on page 2 is Peggy Ann's brother — three-year old Sammy. The photographer caught one of Sammy's biggest and broadest smiles. Here he is, dressed in a little boy's sun-suit — trousers which button on to a straight net top. You'll just have to send for this leaflet, and note all the little things that make this sun suit such a fine one. When it's time to go indoors for dinner — when Aunt Lucretia and Peggy Ann come home from

R-H.C. 7/9

, 2 ...

town — Sammy will put on the other part of his ensemble, a matching overblouse, sleeveless and collar-less of course, with three big buttons down the front. Sammy's proud as Punch because he can dress himself. The buttons are just the right size, and in the most convenient place for his tiny inexperienced fingers to manage easily.

Over here on page 3 of the leaflet is an adorable little girl, dressed in a sun-suit ensemble fashioned from an old outfit. The neat comfortable French panties are buttoned on to a surplice net waist. This serves as a most attractive sun-suit, or as a cool undergarment, when worn with the dress. In the net waist, the deep neckline and armholes are finished with a binding, and a simple bit of stitchery, in harmony with the gay print of the panties and the dress. A wide hem allows for button adjustments on the waist, and twilled tape reenforces the buttons so they will not tear the net. That's the sun-suit proper — a pair of French panties, buttoned on to a surplice net waist. The waist is made of net, so that the ultraviolet rays can get in their good work while Doris is playing in the sandpile.

When it gets cooler, and Doris comes indoors, she can slip on the matching dress, simple in design, with box pleats to provide the needed fullness. It fastens in front, with crocheted loops that slip easily over the buttons. Is that a collar on the dress? No, not exactly — it's a make-believe collar — a collar stitched flat to the dress — just as pretty as a rolling collar, but much easier to make and easier to launder. Besides, it's cooler. Such a little thing as a rolling collar may be very warm on a hot day.

On page four, which is the last page of the leaflet -- well, bless my soul! this is Peggy Ann again. How many sun-suit ensembles do you suppose the child has? Here she is, all dressed up in the cutest kind of a sun-suit, with a matching dress which will make you want to go to town immediately, and buy a few yards of colorful prints. Gay prints, as well as plain colors, are just the thing for a little girl's summer ensemble. Select carefully, though, for some prints are tor large and spotty, and intense plain colors may overpower a sensitive child. Soft, but bright colors, are appropriate, and a source of real enjoyment for children. Besides, bright colors are easily seen by automobile drivers, and serve as a protection against traffic hazards. We don't want Peggy Ann to be brought in with a broken leg, just because she wore such a dull dress that the passing motorist couldn't see her.

Sun-suit ensembles are not only convenient and comfortable; they are healthful. Advantage may be taken of the sunlight at any time, and the outer garment may be put on quickly when needed. Energy needed for growth is not wasted, by allowing the child to become either too warm or too chilly.

Did everybody get the number of this new leaflet, and the title? Leaflet Number 63, "Ensembles for Sunny Days." Just out of the government printing office -- so brand new that the ink is hardly dry. If you send me your request right away, I'll speed the order, so that you can get a copy of this leaflet in time to make sun-suit ensembles for this summer.

R-H.C. 7/9

Now let's write the menu: Broiled Lamb Chops; Swiss Chard, or other greens; Baked Potatoes; and Cantaloupe.

Directions for Broiled Lamb Chops in the leaflet, "Lamb As You Like It."

Recipe for Swiss Chard, right here: Select fresh crisp chard. If it is at all wilted, crisp it by allowing it to stand in cold water for 10 or 15 minutes. Strip the leaves from the stalks. Cut the stalks into inch pieces. Cook for about 20 minutes, in unsalted boiling water, in an uncovered pan. Then add the leaves to the stalks, and continue the cooking until all are tender, about 10 minutes longer. Drain, season with melted butter or other fat, salt, and pepper, and serve hot with lemon or vinegar.

To repeat the menu: Broiled Lamb Chops; Swiss Chard, or other greens; Baked Potatoes; and Cantaloupe.

If you can't get Swiss Chard, wild lambsquarter is good. Many are the hours I have spent, in my childhood, gathering "greens." Greens, in our family, meant only one thing -- wild lambsquarter, or pigweed, to call it by a less pretty name.

Thursday: "Attractive Living Porches for Summer."